



MOVING?

BE SURE TO TAKE US WITH YOU!!!!!!

Affix old mailing label here

Affirmation ☐

Open Hands ☐

Name _____

Address _____

Mail to: Affirmation
P.O. Box 1021
Evanston, IL 60204

The *Affirmation Newsletter* is printed four times a year. Deadline for the summer issue is on **May 1, 1989**.

All articles must be received by this date in order to be printed in the Summer issue. Opinions and comments are welcome. Mailing address is:

Affirmation Newsletter
P.O. Box 1021
Evanston, Illinois 60204

Editor
David L. Gunnell

Evanston, Illinois

Assistant Editor
Judy Hicks

Evanston, Illinois

AFFIRMATION SPOKESPERSONS

Judy Cayot

Albany, California

Randy Miller

Washington, DC

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Marcia K. Knight

Riverdale, Maryland

Maggie Roe

Washington, DC

Roger Kruse

Mesa, Arizona

Gloria B. Soliz

San Matco, California

Andy Miller

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Tim Tyner

Dallas, Texas

Annette Oliver

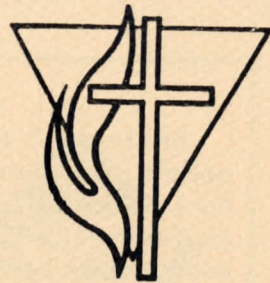
Chicago, Illinois

One man whose name cannot be published.



AFFIRMATION NEWSLETTER

Spring '89



RECEIVED
PERIODICALS

MAR 27 1989

Spring Meeting Update

You are cordially invited to participate in the Spring meeting of **Affirmation**. **Dates** are: March 31 - April 2. **Place**: Dallas, Texas (Northhaven UMC). **Theme**: "We've a Story to Tell" (Empowering us in sharing our spiritual journeys, both as **Affirmation** and as individuals.) **Leadership**: Dr. John Holbert, Professor of Old Testament and Homiletics, Perkins School of Theology and Rev. Colleen Darraugh, Associate Pastor, Metropolitan Community Church, Dallas. **Other important info.**: There will be a business meeting, socializing, country dance lessons (bring leather soled shoes or boots, if you have them) and great food!

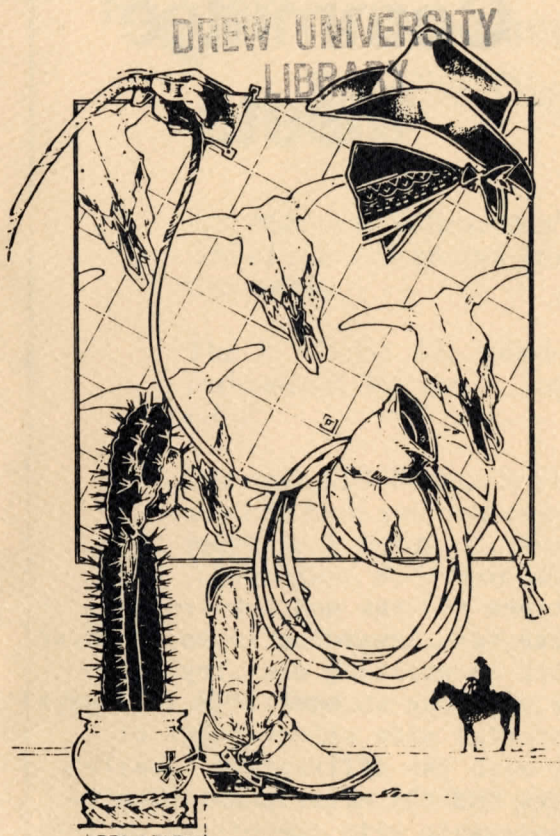
Registration forms are due by March 20, 1989. Send them in now so you don't miss out on the fun and fellowship in "The Big D!". For further information call Ed Young at [REDACTED] or Tim Tyner at [REDACTED]

RECEIVED
FEB 23 2024

Long Range Plan Studied

The Long Range Planning Committee of **Affirmation** has been busy producing a study document outlining our constituencies and priorities. Before proceeding any further, the Committee needs feedback from the local groups and has distributed copies of the draft document along

with a response form. **BY:** Although it is a lengthy document we urge all local Chapters to do a serious study and provide the committee with feedback as soon as possible. Send your feedback to **Affirmation**, P.O. Box 1021, Evanston, IL 60204.



While most of Washington, D.C. was caught up in preparations for the Bush Inaugural, the **Affirmation** Coordinating Committee was hard at work at Christ Church in the southwest corner of the city during the 3-day M.L. King, Jr. weekend.

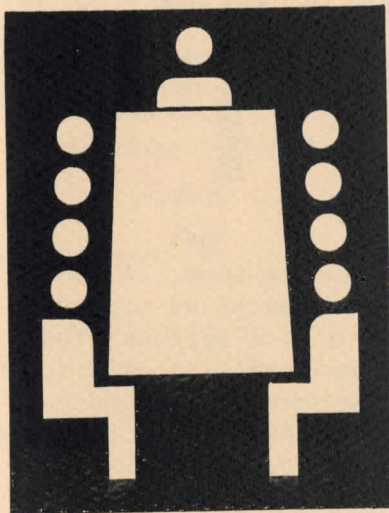
We had a staggering amount of work to tackle during the meeting and we started off by brainstorming about the future of **Affirmation** so we could focus in on our tasks for the weekend. Agenda items for the weekend included the Reconciling Congregation Program and related "Open Hands" publication; the 1989-90 budget; finalizing plans for the Spring Meeting in Dallas; some preliminary planning for the Fall Meeting; improved communications; advertising; and the upcoming Family Reunion this summer.

Although the meeting was long,

Coordinating Committee Meets

sometimes tedious and frustrating, it is also very rewarding to be involved in such an exciting ministry. In spite of these things there is always a wonderful side effect--that of being with the **Affirmation** "family" members and the eagerly anticipated companionship with the others on the Committee.

The Committee wishes to thank the pastor and congregation of Christ Church for their hospitality during the weekend as well as several local **Affirmation** folk for their assistance and housing. We enjoyed sharing Sunday evening worship with Mid-Atlanta **Affirmation**. Being with these people is a renewing experience and we are grateful for the privilege.



Sponsor a Book Party

Affirmation and the Reconciling Congregation Program are holding "Book Parties" in cities across the country this winter and spring to celebrate two new publications: "Cooking with Grace and Discipline" edited by Warren Spare and Roger Kruse, and the book, "And God Loves Each One," written by Ann Thomas Cook on the United Methodist Task Force on Reconciliation. These parties will be hosted by local **Affirmation** groups to give an opportunity to celebrate our work and help raise funds for our ministries.

Events are currently being held in Los Angeles on Feb. 20, San Francisco Bay Area on March 5 and in Washington, D.C. on March 12.

If your local group would like to host a "Book Party" call Mark Bowman at [REDACTED], or Roger Kruse at [REDACTED].

Methodist Seminarians Meet Gay Christians

United Methodist Theological School seminarians were provided an opportunity to learn about the spiritual struggles of lesbian and gay Christians during discussions sponsored by a class studying Ethical Issues and Christianity. Representatives from the United Church of Christ, Quakers/Friends, Lutherans and Evangelicals Concerned



shared their personal faith journeys toward integrating faith and sexual identity. One participant described years of struggling hard to be an "ex-gay" and how it was by God's grace that he eventually came to accept his orientation.

-- from EC/Columbus

And We Are The Leaven: Spreading the Word for L/G Inclusion

"We were clearly preaching to the initiated, but it was wonderful!"

That statement might summarize the reactions of the 28 participants and 9 panelists who discussed the state of affairs of lesbian/gay issues in three Protestant denominations at a recent class.

The class, entitled, "And We Are The Leaven," was part of Pastoral Conference Week which is sponsored each January by the Pacific School of Religion (PSR) in Berkeley, CA. The Conference is a series of lectures by leading theologians and classes on a

variety of topics, and brings together participants, clergy and laity, many of them PSR graduates, from all around the country.

On the first day of Pastoral Conference Week, four **Affirmation** and Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) justice folks joined with counterparts from the United Church of Christ (Congregational) and Presbyterian Church to tell what was going on, hopeful and not hopeful, in their denominations.

UMC panelists were **Judy Cayot** of Berkeley, national co-spokesperson
(please turn to page 5)

AIDS No Punishment, Say American Baptists

The American Baptist General Board has established as their policy on AIDS to "work to eliminate discrimination in all sectors of life against those thought to have the AIDS virus." By means of a resolution, the group urged American Baptists to recognize AIDS "as an opportunity for the caring and educational ministries of our churches" and affirmed "that the loving God revealed in Jesus Christ does not inflict illness as punishment."

--from American Baptist

Pope Wishes For Science and Love To Find AIDS Cure

Pope John Paul II appealed for help for people with AIDS in his annual Christmas Day message from the Vatican. It was his most extensive comment yet about the disease.

The Pope said that his Christmas wish was that "science and love" will find a cure for the disease. People who have AIDS "face the challenge not only of the illness but also the mistrust of a fearful society that instinctively turns away from them," the Pope told 70,000 people who gathered for his message at St. Peter's Square. The message marks one of the few occasions on which the Pope has discussed AIDS.

"I invite everyone to take up the tragic burden of these brethren of ours, and, as I assure them of my deep affection, I exhort scientists and researchers to increase their efforts to find an effective treatment for this mysterious illness...this is the hope that I lay at the crib of the newborn savior."

--from The Advocate

Spreading the Word

(from page 3)

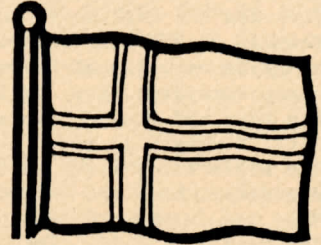
for **Affirmation**, Rick Schlosser of Albany, national vice president of MFSA and an **Affirmation** member; and **Charles Berkstresser**, seminarian at PSR and candidate for the diaconal ministry in the California/Nevada Conference and **Affirmation** member. **Elli Norris** of Berkeley (**Affirmation** member and Regional Co-Organizer for the Western Jurisdiction) served as moderator of the panel, which included an openly lesbian pastor from Modesto, CA, as well as other supportive Protestant clergy and lay persons from California.

What was accomplished? We all gained information about the politics of other denominations as well as our own. We learned more about what coalitions are doing in each denomination to bring about change.

"We all gained information about the politics of other denominations as well as our own."

But most of all, we felt nurtured by one another and heartened to continue the work. An added bonus was that we were brought together through group singing in ways we wouldn't have achieved without song. It is important to remember to bring songs to these gatherings because they add so much to the experience!

-- Elli Norris



Church of Norway Being Sued for Sexual Discrimination

The Church of Norway, a Lutheran sect, is being sued by the Norwegian Trades Union Congress for refusing to hire a gay clergyman for an administrative position. Jens Olsen, an openly gay man, was not hired by the Church after Church officials learned that he was living with another man. Four years ago, Olsen was appointed as hospital chaplain over the opposition of the bishop.

The trade union organization stated that the Church of Norway "is in some ways a state religion, which must obey the country's law that bans discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation."

The Church of Norway admits that Olsen's living arrangement did affect his qualifications for the new position. I am "doing a far better job," stated Olsen, "when I live with the one I love than if I should be forced to be single."

--from The Christian Century

Mid-Atlantic Affirmation

Highpoints of the D.C. group's Sunday evening worship services have included the Baltimore Conference Council on Ministries Thomas Starnes, other denominational caucuses' representatives, Rev. Bill Nelson, Ken Rose and Denise Clapsaddle. The first Sunday will focus on women. The Bible study group reflected on Nicodemus, Mary and Martha, and on Mary and Joseph and Zaccaeus on Thursday's at 7:30. The "Over 40's Group meets every other month for Saturday covered dish meals, fellowship and fun. Other fun: Turkey Roast and Christmas Potluck. Contact us at: [REDACTED] Washington, D.C. [REDACTED] Julie, or [REDACTED] Paul.

Regional News

BALTIMORE AFFIRMATION, St. John's UMC is a reconciling congregation.



Central Virginia Affirmation

The Richmond group kicked off its mission and ministry this summer with a picnic with fifteen persons attending. Meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at Pace Memorial UMC have been empowering. Worship and programs on The Names Project and Virginians for Justice in January provided for an educational and inspiring time. The group gave the Bishop an OPEN HANDS subscription and celebrated Dignity/Integrity's 12th Anniversary. Contact the group c/o Pace Memorial UMC, 700 W. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23220/[REDACTED].

SOUTHEAST

Nashville Affirmation, P.O. Box
24213, Nashville, TN 37202 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].



Atlanta Affirmation, Grant Park-
Aldersgate UMC is a reconciling
congregation.

Jacksonville Affirmation, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Jacksonville, FL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

REGIONAL NEWS

Madison Affirmation

Meeting monthly on the first and third Sunday evenings at University UMC, the group reflected on women's spirituality and its meaning for us as Christians, lesbians and gay men. There is time for scripture, prayer, informal discussion, refreshments and the enjoyment of a warm fire. Other highlights: Tex Sample preaching a revival at University UMC, and Christmas Potluck Dinner. Contact us at: 1127 University Ave., Madison, WI 53715 - [REDACTED]

MINNESOTA AFFIRMATION, Wesley UMC,
Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]

Nebraska Affirmation

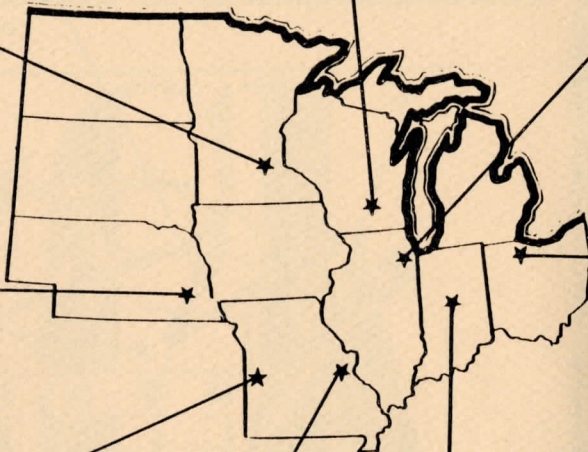
After holding separate meetings in Lincoln and Omaha in November, the groups joined to celebrate a Holiday Happening Potluck on December 18th in Lincoln. The group witnessed to the community by giving a memorial in Nebraska Affirmation's name to the Nebraska AIDS Project in memory of Martin Brunhouse. Contact us at: [REDACTED] Lincoln, NE [REDACTED]

Kansas City Affirmation, Second Thursday,
fifth Sundays; [REDACTED] Kansas City,
MO [REDACTED]

Indianapolis Affirmation,
[REDACTED]
Indianapolis, IN [REDACTED]

Affirmation/Metro-St. Louis

The picnic at Tower Grove Park and ice cream social with the congregation of Shaw UMC were summer social scenes. The group meets for a program and worship on the first and third Sundays at Shaw UMC. Members are active in the St. Louis Effort for AIDS. Contact us at: [REDACTED] St. Louis, MO [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]



MIDWEST

Affirmation Chicago

The group met on November 2nd for a brief time of worship, munchies and video of Oprah Winfrey's show on National Coming Out Day. The group met again on Feb. 1 for worship, dinner/munchies and a discussion of study materials available for the Reconciling Congregation Program as well as the Long Range Study draft document. Affirmation Chicago's door is open to you. Contact us at: P.O. Box 1021, Evanston, IL 60204 / [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Northwest Ohio,
Central UMC of Toledo
is a reconciling
congregation.

Affirmation of Cape Cod

The newest group of Affirmation met at Osterville UMC on January 25th for its first meeting. Seven men and women joined in worship and then discussed gay/lesbian issues, AIDS and the group's future. It was decided to meet monthly on the first Tuesday at 7:30 pm at Osterville UMC. We lift the group in to the Light as it ministers to the Southern New England Conference and the gay/lesbian of Cape Cod and Southern Massachusetts. Contact us at: [REDACTED] Hyannis, MA [REDACTED] / [REDACTED] c/o George Hodgdon.

Western New York Affirmation

The Buffalo Group gathered at Hamburg UMC for its annual Thanksgiving Dinner and also viewed the video of "The Male Couple." We can be reached at: [REDACTED] Hamburg, NY [REDACTED]

PHILADELPHIA AFFIRMATION, Contact Calvary UMC, a reconciling congregation.

NEW YORK CITY AFFIRMATION, Park Sloan, Metropolitan-Duane, and Washington Square are the three reconciling congregations in NYC.

NORTHEAST

REGIONAL NEWS

DENVER AFFIRMATION, St. Paul's UMC is
a reconciling congregation.

Affirmation - Oklahoma, [REDACTED]
Oklahoma City, OK [REDACTED]

Austin Affirmation

Austin Affirmation meets on the
third Sunday from 4 - 7 pm for a
snack or potluck and program.
Members participated in the study of
"Is the Homosexual My Neighbor" at
University UMC. The Christmas Party
and New Year's Eve Watch Night
Service and Celebration were
highlights of the winter. The group
will participate in the March on
Austin. Contact us at: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Austin, TX [REDACTED] /
[REDACTED]

SOUTHWEST

Topeka/Lawrence Affirmation, [redacted]
Topeka, KS [redacted] [Larry] or
[redacted] [Eva].

NEW ORLEANS AFFIRMATION, St. Mark's
is a reconciling congregation.

Dallas Affirmation

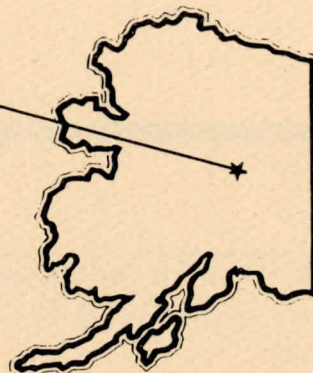
Ten years ago Affirmation began its mission and ministry in Dallas. The Rev. Ron Henderson of St. Paul's UMC preached and celebrated communion at our 10th Anniversary celebration. Meeting monthly on the fourth Monday with potluck, the group asked a panel of attorneys about legal questions, celebrated our 10th Anniversary and listened to Tim Seelig, Director of the Turtle Creek Chorale. The Thursday Bible Study has been studying Corinthians. Our love and appreciation go to Jim Wardlow who has artfully and faithfully served this past year as our first elected convenor. We are working on the Spring Meeting and look forward to meeting you all. Contact us at: [redacted], Dallas, TX [redacted] or [redacted]

Affirmation/Tarrant County:

The Fort Worth faithful meet monthly on the third Tuesday for an informal dinner at The Back Porch on Berry then go to the Wesley Foundation Building on the TCU campus for a program and worship. Recently, we have heard Mary Weathers of Westcliff UMC, Rev. Gary Lindley of Edge Park UMC and Rev. Larry Grubb of First Church, Fort Worth. Christmas activities included a collection for the AIDS Food Pantry of Tarrant County and a Service of Lessons and Carols. Contact us at: [redacted] North Richland Hills, TX [redacted]

REGIONAL NEWS

FAIRBANKS AFFIRMATION, c/o Patti
Unruh, [REDACTED] Fairbanks, AL



Affirmation Oregon-Idaho

The Oregon Idaho group purchased "Casting Out Fear" and made it available through the Conference AV Library, sent a mailing to all pastors and Council or Ministries chairpersons on how to implement the Oregon-Idaho Conference resolution encouraging each church to consider becoming a Reconciling Congregation and thanked Bishop Dew for his endorsement on "NO on 8" in their continued prophetic witness to the church. Oregon-Idaho Affirmation can be contacted at [REDACTED] Portland, OR [REDACTED]

SACRAMENTO AFFIRMATION, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

BAY AREA AFFIRMATION, Call Ellie
Norris, [REDACTED]

Los Angeles Affirmation

The group recently celebrated its 7th anniversary by holding a dinner program meeting at Crescent Heights UMC in West Hollywood. We had a German winter theme dinner and the worship program and communion was led by Bishop Jack Tuell. The group meets monthly on the first Wednesday at Crescent Heights UMC at 7:30 pm. Other recent events include a Reconciling Congregations Program Book Party, Christmas Potluck, and programs with Mitch Gorbesson and Rev. Phil Wood. Contact us at: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Los Angeles, CA [REDACTED]



WEST

Affirmation/Seattle

First Thursday meetings and third Sunday potlucks connect the kindred souls of the Pacific Northwest Conference. We rejoiced at the Fifth Annual Advent Service of Reconciliation at Wallingford UMC. Halloween proved pretty scary and the Fourth Annual MLK Weekend Retreat featured the theme "Celebrating Our Gifts" at Camp Huston near Gold Bar. Affirmation/Seattle can be reached by contacting us at [REDACTED] Seattle, WA [REDACTED]

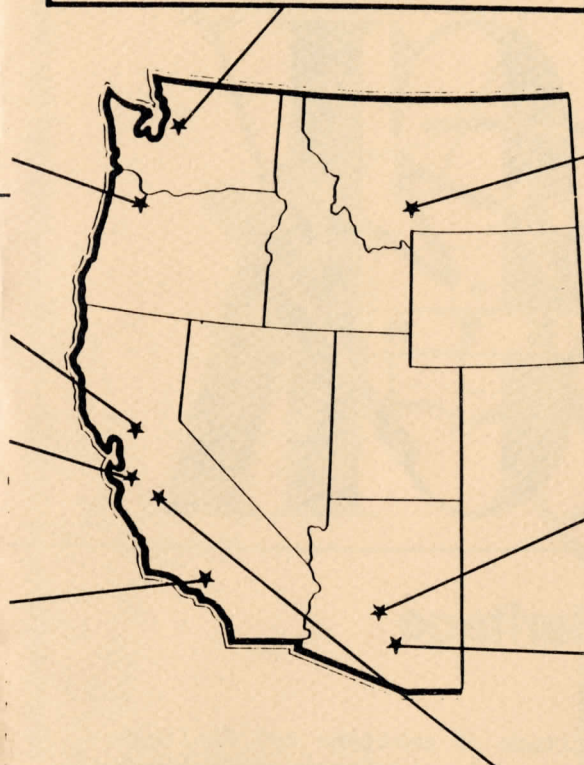
Yellowstone Affirmation c/o Ron Lang, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Bozeman, MT [REDACTED]

Phoenix Affirmation

The group meets for fellowship on an irregular basis. Contact the group for a schedule of events. One fun event was a road trip and Christmas Slumber Party with the Tucson Affirmation Group. Contact us at [REDACTED] Mesa, AZ

TUCSON AFFIRMATION. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Tucson, AZ [REDACTED] Call Carol
at [REDACTED]

FRESNO AFFIRMATION. Wesley UMC is a reconciling congregation.



The first day of February is known to some as Freedom Day. On this day people are reminded of their freedoms. This day also begins Black History Month. The following three perspectives are the authors view point on what Black History Month means to them. What the struggle of the Civil Rights Movement and the Human Rights (Gay Rights) means to them. People know that *when one is oppressed, we are all oppressed*. The wonderful "I Have a Dream" speech by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speaks not only to just "little black boys and girls be(ing) able to join hands with little white boys and girls ..." King's speech is for all people who ever been oppressed. King's dream is for all persons.

Black History Month is a special time when we learn the true and rich history of not only Afro-Americans, but all people who have been "sweltering the heat of injustice and oppression."

The authors are from different backgrounds. Two of the writers are from California. One from the San Francisco Bay Area and the other from Los Angeles. The third is from the Chicago Metropolitan Area. All three are women, but they represent different racial cultures.

BLACK History MONTH

Of Hope and Heritage

It's a great feeling knowing our grass roots stem from a history of strength, endurance, pride and experience. The African-American culture has survived many hundreds of years of war, politics, prejudice, pain, weather, hunger and the hatred of man, yet it remains full of spirit and growth. Our foreparents, who made it through the harsh early days of America, force one to deal with a

multitude of emotions and feelings. If we are to survive in this country, we must elect to understand our anger and misunderstandings. This is not an easy task but we can begin by understanding that many non African-Americans in America run the risk of being misinformed about other people and cultures from a very early age. It is equally important to note that many are desperately trying to

confront their inner feelings around racism, sexism, classism and homophobia. This is often done without any means of support from their co-workers, friends, neighbors or families. We must be patient as others continue their search for understanding, maturity and rebirth.

We've had difficulty recognizing and avoiding various traps put into place years ago by a system built and maintained from the hardships of others. By primarily focusing on our positive worth, along with working together to help America grow, our children may one day be spared a life of low self-esteem and all types of human pain. We must actively keep their levels of self respect high and visible regardless of their sexuality

"By primarily focusing on our positive worth, along with working together to help American grow, our children may one day be spared a life of low self-esteem and all types of human pain."

or financial worth. We must give our children a firm knowledge of God and assure them that God is with all persons. Our foreparents, through their infinite love of God, were able to withstand the ills of this nation and helped pave the path we walk today. This same path enables us to feel the profound strength of a proud people.

We must be very careful to avoid becoming victims of inward hatred of others. Their changing process is taking place right now as you read my thoughts. They have a long way to go, just as we had a tremendously long way to come. With patience, hope and love, this wonderful change will happen in the future.

The memories of our foreparents, who witnessed the horrors of life in a country that allowed a person no

"If we are to survive in this country, we must elect to understand our anger and misunderstandings."

name, no honor, no love, and no respect, has helped to strengthen us and broaden our horizons. We have had an opportunity given to us by way of the severe suffering of others, in hopes of making life better for us as a people. By keeping a strong faith in God, we can continue to overcome the barriers that cross our paths.

Hopefully, we, as a united nation, will one day rise up against all forms of prejudice, racism and human suffering and get on with the beautiful work God has put each of us here to do. If we take the time to treat each human being properly and in a humane way, in time, what a wonderful America this could be.

As we gather together to celebrate this February 1989 as "African-American Month," I pray that we can do so with open hearts and peaceful minds. May God be with us and bless us all in our struggles to make this nation, **ONE NATION UNDER GOD.**

--Cecelia Page
Affirmation/ Los Angeles

From A Hispanic Perspective...

February is Black History Month, in which we celebrate the courage and contributions of African-American people. During the Civil Rights Movement, I was a teenager. The full significance of that era was yet to unfold within me.

In high school, I attended a Mid-Winter Institute sponsored by the Methodist Church. The program was on race relations. Those of us who were from the white suburbs were to be housed in the homes of local Black church folks. I have a vivid memory of walking into the sanctuary of the church in which the youth were gathering as they waited for the event to begin. I looked around the room and my attention was drawn to one girl. Somehow I knew we would be housed together for the weekend. I was right! We were both housed in the home of a doctor and his family.

That weekend, my roommate and I stayed up late at night talking. After the lights went out, this otherwise quiet girl started asking me questions. I don't remember much of what I said. I do know I did most

"What I do remember, and I will never forget, was her comment: 'You are sure a busy person. I thought Mexicans were lazy. You're not!'"

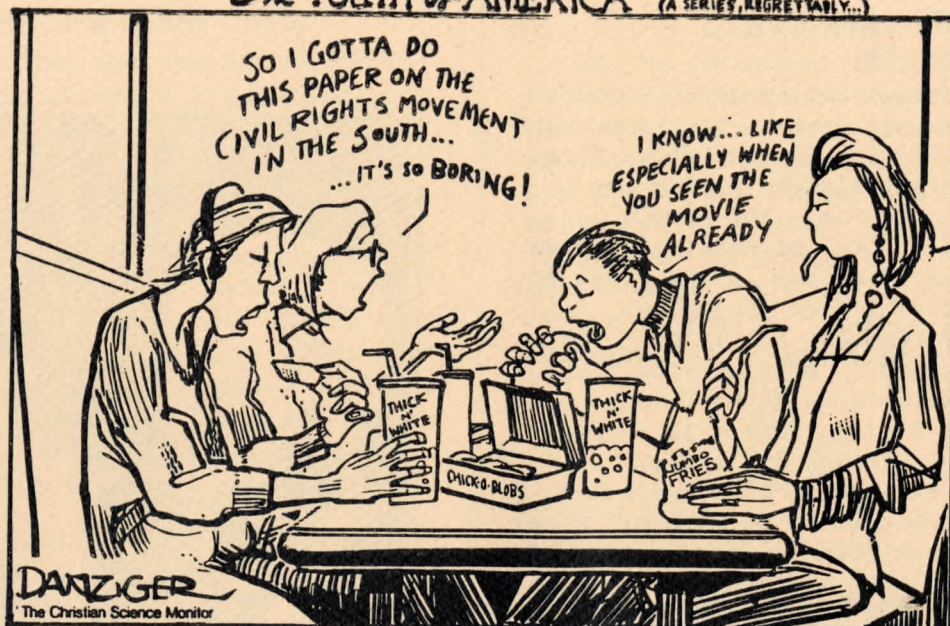
of the talking, relating my activities at church and school. What I do remember, and will never forget, was her comment: "You are sure a busy person. I thought Mexicans were lazy. You're not!"



Just last month, the Coordinating Committee of National Affirmation met in Washington, D.C. On the Saturday evening of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend, we enjoyed the wonderful voices of "Sweet Honey in the Rock." In song, the audience was taken on a trip back to the 1960's, which brought back an awareness of the struggles for freedom. I was sick with a cold and damp from the rain, but could feel my spirit warmed by the healing waves of those beautiful voices from those African-American women. The diverse audience that surrounded me further kindled my spirit.

Out of the Civil Rights movement, there was a phrase that connoted great power, "Black is Beautiful." Even as a non-Black, I identified with its meaning. "Black is Beautiful" means that there is beauty in being a Brown woman who is a lesbian of mixed heritage, Hispanic and Anglo. As a Christian, I believe that the Civil Rights movement and its subsequent movements are a part of God's continued calling from slavery into the Exodus. Thank God there are people who have gone before and continue to step out in hope and in faith.

--Gloria Soliz
Bay Area Affirmation



Danziger in The Christian Science Monitor ©1989 TCSPS

Hard Harmony

When the editor of this newsletter asked me to offer my opinion on the subject of Black History month I thought, well now, what can I possibly say about the subject? I'm not well versed in history or politics and I'm not Black. But then I thought, I guess I do have some knowledge of what it can mean to live with various forms of prejudice. You see, my husband is a Black man and we have two teenage daughters who are of mixed heritage.

I know that in the 19 years since I was married in 1970, I have seen great strides taken in terms of housing and employment situations for persons of color. I have seen a

growing awareness and acceptance of Black culture by the non-Black population. Even in the Church there have been wide-sweeping changes in terms of acceptance on the local level as well as nationally. For instance, in 1970 my husband-to-be and I were refused the marriage vows in my then all-white "home" UMC church because the Pastor was opposed to "mixed" marriages. However, just 3 years later, that same pastor agreed to baptise our first child. And now, that formerly "all white" church membership is predominantly composed of persons of color from many different nations of the world. What a difference a few years can make!

I think contributing greatly to

Hard Harmony

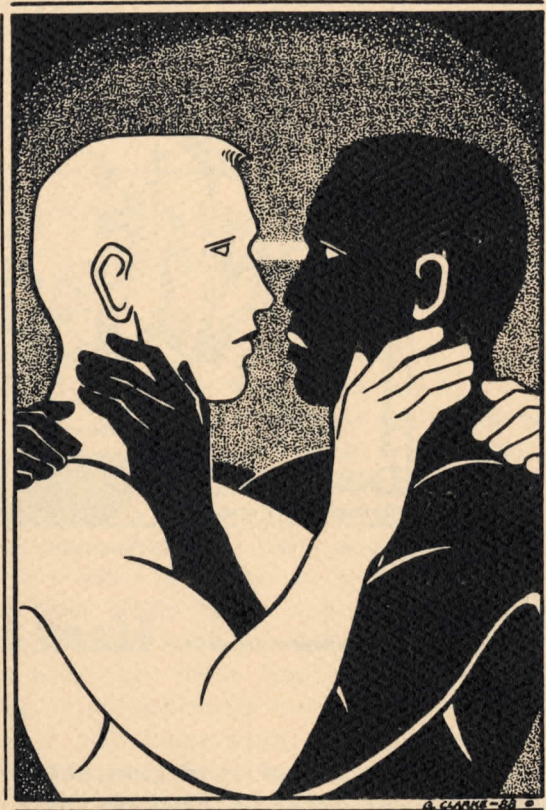
(from page 17)

the advancement of equality for all persons is, of course, the groundwork laid by the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his followers during the 1950's and 1960's. But also important are the personal struggles that go on every day in the lives of persons living with prejudice. I painfully remember how it felt for me to be shunned by both my family and friends as well as by my Church because I fell in love with a person of color. I think it is this personal experience with prejudice that helped open my eyes to all kinds of different forms of oppression and

"...in 1970 my husband-to-be and I were refused the marriage vows in my then all-white 'home' UMC church because the Pastor was opposed to 'mixed' marriages."

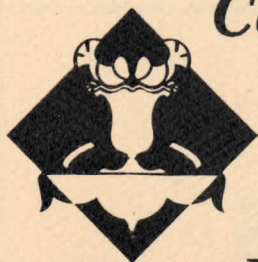
racism that I had not really been aware of before. And, of course, this includes the struggles of gay men and lesbians. I'm not sure who said it, but I certainly agree that as long as "one person or group of persons is oppressed, we are all oppressed." I have tried to structure my life so that I am actively involved in battling different forms of racism and oppression on many fronts. I firmly believe that God created all persons equally and has a dream for us to live in harmony and peace together as brothers and sisters of love. Although there is definitely still much work to be done to educate and enlighten people, I believe that Black History month is a perpetuation of that dream.

--Judy Hicks
Affirmation/Chicago



This drawing by black gay artist Burton Clarke does honor to the work of Black and White Men Together, an organization trying to bridge the racial gaps in our gay life.

BLACK
History
MONTH



Cooking With Discipline And Grace

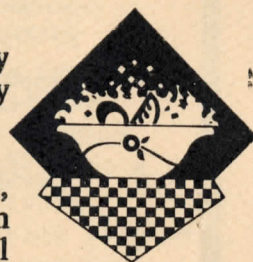


**Tried and True Recipes
For The Discriminating Palate**

It's National Affirmation's own cookbook featuring nearly 200 of the best recipes from our members and friends across the nation.

The 8 1/2 by 11, spiral-bound book is a must for every fashionable kitchen. And, they make wonderful holiday gifts!

For only \$10.00 plus a \$1.50 shipping and handling charge, you can have you own copy. Simply complete the order form below and return it, along with your check, to National Affirmation, P. O. Box 1021, Evanston, IL 60204.



YES! Send me _____ copies of Cooking With Discipline and Grace.

I have enclosed \$10.00 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling for each copy.

Name _____

**Mailing Address _____
_____**

**Return to: National Affirmation
P. O. Box 1021
Evanston, IL 60204**



Help Support National Affirmation's On-Going Work With Your Pledge

National Affirmation continues to expand its program and ministry to and among lesbians and gay men. And, with each expansion, the demand on our resources increases.

Regional organizing successes continue to account for new local Affirmation groups on nearly a monthly basis. The Reconciling Congregation Program has grown to include 35 local churches and five annual conferences. Affirmation's outreach efforts to gay men and lesbians where there are no local groups is expanding.

Affirmation's programs and ministry is at a point where we need your assistance to continue our expansion. One important way you can help is with a pledge for regular financial support of the program.

Each year, Affirmation needs to raise nearly \$20,000.00 among its members to underwrite our programmatic efforts. Won't you consider helping move us toward that goal?

Simply complete the pledge form below and return it to: National Affirmation, P. O. Box 1021, Evanston, IL 60204. It would help our immediate need if you would enclose your first contribution with your pledge. Remember, all contributions to National Affirmation qualify for federal and state tax deductions.

Affirmation Pledge Commitment

I want to be part of Affirmation's expanding ministry to and among gay men and lesbians. You can count on me for the following support:

___\$500 ___\$250 ___\$100 ___\$50 ___\$25 ___\$___ (please specify)

You can expect my contribution:

___annually ___quarterly ___monthly

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Return to: National Affirmation
P. O. Box 1021
Evanston, IL 60204

REGISTRATION FORM

We've a Story to Tell

March 31 - April 2, 1989

Dallas, Texas

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____ Work Phone _____

_____ Zip Code _____

Please check one of the following:

- ☐ I am coming to the Spring Affirmation meeting in Dallas, Texas.
My registration is enclosed (The **deadline is March 20**)
- ☐ I cannot come to the Spring Affirmation meeting in Dallas, but
I am enclosing a contribution.

If you are coming to the Spring Affirmation meeting, please check one or more of the following:

- ☐ I am arriving on _____ and will need housing in a private home
[DATE]
from _____ to _____
[DATE] [DATE]
- ☐ I prefer a non-smoking home.
- ☐ I am making my own housing arrangements.
- ☐ I am arriving on _____ and would like information on nearby hotels. I am
staying in a hotel. [DATE]
- ☐ I have special dietary and/or housing concerns. Please list special needs below:
- ☐ I would like to be picked up at **Dallas/Fort Worth** or **Dallas Love Field** Airport.
[CIRCLE ONE]
- ☐ My flight information is: Date of arrival: _____
Time of arrive: _____
Flight number: _____
City flight departures from: _____

Registration Fee: Student/fixed income/subsistance income	\$10
Up to \$15,000 a year	\$30
\$15,000 to \$30,000 a year	\$45
\$30,000 to \$50,000 a year	\$60
\$50,000 and above a year	\$75

Send this form to: Affirmation/Dallas
P.O. Box 225831
Dallas, Texas 75222

Deadline for registration forms is March 20, 1989.
All forms must be received by this date!

Affirmation
P.O. Box 1021
116 Ridge Avenue
Evanston, Illinois
60204-1021

Dated Material

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Evanston, Illinois
Permit No. 181



RENEWAL
SPR89